

Application No.: 10/089,651

H 4381

Amendment dated February 5, 2004

Reply to Office Action dated November 5, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

6. (currently amended) A process for manufacturing a shoe or shoe component, comprising the steps of bonding a surface of an upper and a surface of an outer sole with an adhesive, wherein at least one of the surfaces to be bonded is pretreated before application of the adhesive, said pretreatment comprising with a first pretreatment step consisting of directing a plasma jet under normal pressure onto the surface being pretreated, and optionally a second pretreatment step, following the first pretreatment step, comprising one or more of mechanical roughening, solvent roughening, or preheating.

7. (original) The process of claim 6, wherein the plasma jet is linear.

8. (original) The process of claim 6, wherein the plasma jet pretreated surface comprises die-cut ethylene/vinyl acetate foam.

9. (canceled)

10. (original) The process of claim 6, wherein the plasma jet pretreated surface comprises thermoplastic rubber that is optionally preheated before application of the adhesive.

11. (canceled)

12. (original) The process of claim 6, wherein the plasma jet pretreated surface comprises injection-molded, foamed

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ethylene/vinyl acetate that has been roughened or swelled mechanically or with a solvent before treatment with the plasma jet.